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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant:	John L. White)	Examiner:	Truong, Thanh K
Serial No.:	10/667,176)	Art Unit:	3721
Filed:	09/17/2003)	Attorneys Ref.:	P214414
Title:	Preloaded Drop Hammer For Driving Piles)		

RESPONSE

Mail Stop Non-Fee Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

This is in response to the Office Action mailed October 12, 2006. It is believed that no fee is due at this time to maintain the application in full force and effect. However, if any such fee or charge is due, please charge this fee to Deposit Account No. 502099.

Please amend the application as described herein.

REMARKS

This Amendment is filed in response to the Office Action mailed on October 12, 2006, in connection with this case. In that Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1, 4-6, 8, 9, 12, 13, 15, 18, 19, and 21 under 35 USC § 103(a) based on the combination of U.S. Patent No. 6,102,133 to Scheid et al. (hereinafter the Scheid reference) in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,844,661 to Martin (hereinafter the Martin reference). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

In the Remarks accompanying the RCE filed September 12, 2006, the Applicant noted that "the Scheid et al. reference fails to describe in significant detail what happens to the pressures within the working space below the hammering piston when